Improvement of raw Cotton position

375. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Northern Indian Textile Mills Association has urged Government to improve the raw cotton situation failing which the textile mills in the north may close down;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what further steps Government propose to take to improve the raw cotton position to save the textile mills?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) A representation was received from Northern Indian Textile Mills Association.

(b) and (c) Prices of cotton have shown a declining trend. However, Government is keeping a careful watch on the situation. Export of staple cotton has been suspended since July, 1987.

ILO report on urban workers in developing countries

376. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has recently revealed that the Urban workers in the developing countries have been facing high job insecurity since 1980s;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any survey has since been conducted by Government to ascertain job prospects of urban and rural people in this country; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard and what further steps Government propose to take to provide job security to the urban workers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The reference appears to be to the conclusion of the recent ILO World Labour Report which draw attention to the fact that contract workers, outworkers, domestic workers and casual workers in urban areas in developing countries suffer from different forms of job insecurity.

(b) in so far as the position in India is concerned, the Government is already aware of the problems of the categories of workers mentioned in the report.

(c) and (d) The strategy for generation of greater employment opportunities both in rural and urban areas has been laid down in the Seventh Plan, 1985-90. While the domestic workers are as yet not covered under labour legislation, efforts continue to be made to streamline the working of Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 so as to safeguard the interests of contract and migrant workers. It may be pointed out that of late, the Government has been paying greater attention to the problems of unorganised workers both in the rural and urban areas.

News-item captioned "Weak laws for high rise fires"

377. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Weak laws for high rise fires" which appeared in the Indian Express of the 3rd September, 1987;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to weak laws, the incidents of fire in the high rise buildings in the country are increasing; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to enforce the laws strictly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 'Fire' being a State subject, State Governments had been requested by this Ministry to enact the Fire Force Act on which a model legislation was also circulated. The Ministry of Urban Development, have also circulated a National Biulding Code of India which inter-alia contains measures to be followed on fire safety.

Import of cotton

378. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Cotton Mills Federation has urged Government to import ten lakh bales of cotton in order to reduce the demand-supply gap;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) As per present indications no propose to take to minimise the demand-supply gap of cotton in the market?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government do not propose to import cotton at present.

(c) As per present indications no supply-demand gap in cotton exists.

Appointment of a Committee to combat smuggling

379. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Central Committee to combat smuggling in the country;

(b) if so, by when the proposed Committee will be set up; and

(c) the manner in which it will function to combat smuggling activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to setting up of a Central Committee of Senior Officers of agencies concerned with anti-smuggling work as directed by the Hon'ble Finance Minister during the Conference of Collectors of Customs on Anti-smuggling work which was convened at Delhi on 17th September, 1987. The Committee consisting of senior officials of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, the Coast Guard, the Border Security Force and the Department of Revenue has been constituted under Finance Ministry's orders dated 21st October, 1987. It would enable the agencies concerned to exchange information and to take co-ordinated action so that the total anti-smuggling effort is strengthened.

Release of raw jute by JCI

380. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has decided to release raw jute stock;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that this will result in a crash in the market price of raw jute?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached. (*See* below)

(c) No, Sir.